

# SALT TOLERANT FORAGES\*

Steve Lackman

MSU Extension Agent / Yellowstone County

Room 106 County Courthouse, PO Box 35021 Billings MT 59107

Phone: 406-256-2828 email: [pdixon@montana.edu](mailto:pdixon@montana.edu)

## THRESHOLD AND MAXIMUM SALT TOLERANCE LEVEL OF VARIOUS CROPS AND FORAGE SPECIES

	Species	Electrical Conductivity (decisiemens/meter or mmhos/cm)	
		Level at which productivity initially affected	Upper limits of plant survival
Crops	Barley	8	16
	Sugar Beets	7	12
	Safflower	6	10
	Wheat	6	8
	Oats	4	8
	Corn	4	6
Forages – Wet Sites	Beardless Wildrye	12	26
	Tall Wheatgrass	12	26
	Hybrid Wheatgrass-New Hay	10	24
	Slender Wheatgrass	10	22
	Tall Fescue	7	18
	Western Wheatgrass	6	16
	Strawberry Clover	6	16
	Creeping Foxtail	5	12
	Meadow Bromegrass	4	10
	Cicer Milkvetch	4	10
	Orchardgrass	3	8
Forages – Dry Sites	Russian Wildrye	12	24
	Tall Wheatgrass	12	24
	Altai Wildrye	10	20
	Slender Wheatgrass	10	20
	Crested Wheatgrass	6	16
	Pubescent Wheatgrass	6	12
	Intermediate Wheatgrass	6	12
	Smooth Bromegrass	5	10
	Yellow Sweetclover	5	10
	Birdsfoot Trefoil	5	10
	Alfalfa	4	8
Natives	Nuttall's Alkaligrass	14	30
	Alkali Sacton	14	26
	Beardless Wildrye	12	26
	Alkali Cordgrass	12	24
	Alkali Bluegrass	12	24
	Slender Wheatgrass	10	22
	Plains Bluegrass	10	20
	Western Wheatgrass	6	16
	Thickspike Wheatgrass	6	14

Threshold levels are an average based on research at the Bridger Plant Materials Center, Bridger, MT (M. Majerus), US Salinity Lab, Riverside, CA, (Maas and Hoffman) and the University of Wyoming (Borrelli and Brosz).

\* Originally prepared by Paul V. Dixon, former Yellowstone County Extension Agricultural Agent